



17555 PEAK AVENUE MORGAN HILL CALIFORNIA 95037

DRAFT

LIBRARY COMMISSION

After Action

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 20, 2003

Morgan Hill Civic Center

Council Chambers
17555 Peak Avenue

LIBRARY COMMISSION

Chair	Jeanne Gregg
Vice-Chair	Charles Dillmann
Commissioner	Kathleen Stanaway
Commissioner	Charles Cameron
Commissioner	George Nale
Commissioner	Mary Ellen Salzano
Commissioner	Einar Anderson
Commissioner	Ruth Phebus
Commissioner	Vacant

7:15 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gregg called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

Absent: Commissioners Anderson and Phebus

DECLARATION OF POSTING THE AGENDA

Per Government Code 54954.2

PLEDGE

Pledge was led by Chair Gregg

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REPORTS

1. COUNTY LIBRARY REPORT

Legislation-Funding & Budgeting

County Librarian Melinda Cervantes
Deputy County Librarian Sarah Flowers

Ms. Flowers gave the County Library Report on behalf of Ms. Cervantes. Ms. Flowers reported that for the third year in a row, the Santa Clara County Library System was ranked number one in the HAPLR rating system. Chair Gregg congratulated Ms. Flowers on the Library's ranking.

A second survey for Special Benefits Tax was conducted and the results for public support for rate, term and escalation of the tax will be presented on Thursday, October 23.

Ms. Flowers reported on the One Book One Community campaign and announced the three choices for the "One Book" are as follows:

1. The Life of Pi – Yan Martel
2. Daughter of Fortune – Isabel Allende
3. Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury

Patrons throughout the entire library system are encouraged to vote for one of the three selections. The winning selection will be announced in February 2004. Last year's selection was Breaking Through.

Ms. Flowers reported there is no new information in regard to the impact of the State's budget. The Library is waiting to hear if Governor-Elect Schwarzenegger will be able to repeal the VLF tax. Ms. Flowers stated the JPA voted to reserve funds for this fiscal year, which will enable the Library to maintain current operating levels. She added the JPA will have a better idea of the impact of the State's budget on the Library in the Spring.

Joint Powers Authority

Council Member Steve Tate

Council Member Tate reported the Election Committee for the Special Benefits Tax held a meeting on September 25th. The next meeting, to be held on October 23rd, will be critical because the JPA and the Election Committee will learn the results of the second public opinion survey. Once the results of the survey are known the JPA will set the rate, term and escalation for the Special Tax.

Mr. Tate announced the Library Bond Act of 2000 Board will meet in Sacramento on October 28 to award the Cycle II grants. He reported Assembly Member John Laird has worked diligently on our behalf and met with the individual members of the Board to advocate for our application.

Mr. Tate encouraged the Commission members to write to Governor-Elect Schwarzenegger to urge him to retain the VLF at its current rate. He emphasized the need of local governments for these funds to maintain current service levels and for public safety.

The Election Committee will meet on November 6 to receive election materials etc. All members of the Commission are invited to attend. Vice Chair Dillmann asked what factors are needed to be successful in the election. Mr. Tate responded the campaign needs to demonstrate the need for the

special tax and the need for radio frequency tracking for books, etc. Ms. Flowers added that in 1995 the benefit assessment was originally 40% of the budget and today it is 21% of the budget. The JPA is charged with the task of picking a dollar amount per household for the special tax, that they are fairly confident will pass.

Mr. Tate reported the City Council addressed the vacancy on the Library Commission created by John Boyne's resignation. He stated the Council has chosen to leave that position vacant and allow the Commission to return to its original membership of seven Commissioners through attrition.

2. MORGAN HILL LIBRARY REPORT

Community Librarian
Nancy Howe

Ms. Howe reported the circulation in September was 51,090. This represents an 11.3% increase over September 2002.

Ms. Howe reported the Library did participate in the Taste of Morgan Hill in the City's booth, but did not get much foot traffic because the City booth was located in the Community Playhouse at the southern most end of the event's booths and activities. Ms. Howe reported the Library experienced severe plumbing problems on October 20th. The Library had to be shut down for a time in order to complete the repairs. She added the Friends of the Library has requested that a sign indicating the Library's hours be placed on the lawn in front of the Library. She is working with the City to determine the policies for public signs. She added a local teacher received a grant from Target to fund a bilingual Story Time in English and Spanish at the Library. These have Story Times have been very successful. Forty Eight (48) people attended the last Story Time. Commissioner Salzano asked who was responsible for getting the grant. Ms. Howe responded a teacher at Jackson Oaks received the grant through Target's Grants for Literacy Program.

She announced the Library staff is reviewing the Library's goals for the coming year:

1. Increase service to underserved residents in the service area
2. Develop and implement a library volunteer program for children, teens and adults
3. Increase library visibility in the community
4. Increase options for customer self-service

She provided the Commission with a hand-out, which outlined these goals

3. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Vice-Chair Dillmann

Vice-Chair Dillmann reported the Legislature has been quiet. The Patriot Act will be addressed in Business Item 7 below.

4. YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chair England
Vice-Chair O'mahen

Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) Vice-Chair Jonathan O'mahen attended the meeting on behalf of the YAC. The After School Tutor program will be addressed in Business Item 6 below.

CONSENT CALENDAR

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINTUES OF AUGUST 11, 2003

Vice-Chair Dillmann motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion. Motion approved (6:0)

BUSINESS

6. AFTER-SCHOOL TUTOR PROGRAM

Recommended Action: Information Item. Commissioner Phebus will provide an update on the prospective After-School Tutor Program.

Commissioner Phebus was unable to attend the meeting. Chair Gregg provided the update on behalf of Commissioner Phebus. Commissioner Phebus conducted research on the Tutor Program funded by the City of San Jose for students at Martin Murphy and Los Paseos School. She also met with Nancy Howe and Melinda Cervantes to discuss the prospective program. Ms. Phebus learned there is no after-school program similar to that of San Jose's within the Morgan Hill Unified School District. The District does provide services for at-risk youth. Chair Gregg added that Live Oak High School does have a Peer/Tutor program. Students volunteer to assist other students with homework. There is also an on-line homework help website through the San Jose Library System. It was also announced that the Santa Clara County Library System has its own live homework help on the web, the Q & A Café. Students can go to www.grandcafe.org and get help from a tutor on homework and assignments. Chair Gregg stated that Commissioner Phebus offered to write a grant on behalf of the Library to obtain funds for an after-school tutor program. She stated there is a need such a program. However, Library staff is spread thin and there is concern regarding the Library's ability to supervise and staff the program.

Nancy Howe stated there will be adequate room in the new library for a Homework Center, but that current space and staff workloads make it difficult to commit to launching this program. She stated a member of the Library staff will continue to attend the YAC meetings to get feedback on what's needed for teen services. She then introduced Jody Wilson, the Teen and Adult Services Librarian.

Ms. Wilson stated she worked in the Alum Rock Library and Rose Garden Library in San Jose and worked with volunteers with backgrounds in education to provide homework help to students. She stated the program was successful.

Chair Gregg asked Jonathan O'mahen if he had a response or wanted to add anything to the discussion. Mr. O'mahen stated it sounded as if the Library wasn't able to staff or supervise such a program at this time, but he was hopeful the program could be launched in the new library. Ms. Gregg added that all programs even if funded by a grant take staff time to supervise and manage. The new library will be working more closely with schools through the Homework Center and Family Literacy Center.

Commissioner Stanaway asked if Ms. Phebus were to write a grant for the Library, would the Commission need to approve a motion to work on a grant. Vice-Chair Dillmann stated that most grants are short term and the Library staff would need to prepare for beyond the life of the grant. Nancy Howe stated that in light of all the current critical funding needs this program might not rise to the top of list at this time. Council Member Tate provided information on a mentoring program sponsored by IBM. He is going to find out more information about the program and report back to the Commission. He stated the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group is interested in the program as well. Commissioner Salzano stated it is important to let students know about the availability of the Q & A Café and the peer-tutor program at Live Oak High

School. She suggested an ad in the Live Oak newspaper would be beneficial. She added that it is important to look at other organizations that can partner with the Library to help students, such as San Jose State. Chair Gregg asked Ms. Howe if the tutor program can be placed on the Library's list of priorities. Ms. Howe responded the Library's goals were developed prior to this discussion, but the Library is looking toward providing more services for youth and teens. Ms. Wilson added that as part of her job, she attends staff meetings at each of the schools and provides information to teachers about teen services at the Library. Mr. O'mahen thanked the Commission and the Library staff for their efforts to help with this request from the YAC. He added he realizes it is easy to make this request, but the time, effort and planning needed to implement the program is difficult. He will take this information back to the YAC. Chair Gregg thanked Mr. O'mahen for attending the meeting and stated the Commission greatly appreciates the input from the youth.

7. USA PATRIOT ACT

Recommended Action: Information Item. The Library Commission will discuss the USA Patriot Act and its effect upon libraries.

Vice-Chair Dillmann stated the discussion around the Patriot Act seems to be extensive and he asked the Library staff to provide information on the magnitude of the issue and if the Library Commission should take any action regarding this Act. Deputy County Librarian Flowers stated the issues Patriot Act has not risen as a topic of high priority, but she did state the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors has passed a resolution against the Act. She stated the Library has been sponsoring public forums, which focus on the topic of freedom. A forum was held in Morgan Hill earlier in the Fall, which had low attendance, but contained great discussion. Another will be held on October 30th in another location.

Commission Cameron stated a good book to read regarding the Patriot Act is The War on the Bill of Rights by Hantoffer (spelling?). Vice Chair Dillmann stated the Library has a long history of defending people's rights to obtain information and opposes censorship. Ms. Flowers added that law enforcement officials can ask Libraries about the books that have been checked out by certain individuals, but the Library does not keep a record of books loaned once the book has been returned. Ms. Flowers added there is a website with useful links to other websites about the Patriot Act. She will provide that URL to the Commission.

8. LIBRARY FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

Recommended Action: Information Item. The Fund Raising Committee will provide a report on the status of the development of the fund raising organization for the Library.

Vice-Chair Dillmann reported the Committee hasn't met because Commission Anderson has been out of town and because Council Member Tate has encouraged the Committee to set the Special Benefit Tax election campaign as a priority. Mr. Dillmann added the Committee needs to identify a permanent leader. He asked the Commission and the members of the Library staff to refer anyone they felt would be a good candidate and would be interested in this position, to the Committee. He stated this individual should be a good fund raiser as well as a strong leader.

Chair Gregg stated she has been working on the election with several other members of the community, and the Election Committee has been charged with raising \$250,000. She stated this goal will take tremendous effort and dedication on the part of the Election Committee.

REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS

Commissioners have requested that the following agenda items be placed on the Library Commission agenda for the next meeting or on a future date:

1. After-School Tutor Program at the Library
2. Library Grant Application – Next Steps
3. Commission Retreat
4. Overview of Library Children's Services
5. Fundraising for Library – Speaker from Saratoga
6. School/Library Cooperation
7. Vision for the Library of the Future

ADJOURNMENT to the next monthly meeting scheduled on **November 10, 2003 at 7:15 p.m.** in City Council Chambers.

Commissioner Cameron moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Dillmann seconded the motion. Motion approved (6:0)